

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01
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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2033

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INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS 0245

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0115

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD
MARCH 7-13

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. AT THE MARCH 8 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE
VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS, THE DISCUSSION AGAIN
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CENTERED MAINLY ON COUNTING RULES AND DATA. THE EAST
REPEATED ITS SUGGESTION OF THE PRVIOUS WEEK THAT BOTH SIDES
TABLE INDIVIDUAL TOTALS FOR THE MILITARY MANPOWER OF EACH
DIRECT PARTICIPANT. IN A MARCH 10 BILATERAL EXCHANGE WITH
US REPS, SOVIET REPS STATED THAT THE EAST WAS WILLING
TO DISCUSS DATA ON US AND SOVIET FORCES IN THE AREA
FIRST, BUT ONLY AFTER THE SIMULTANEOUS TABLING OF

NATIONAL TOTALS FOR ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING THE FORMAT OF THE PREVIOUS TWO WEEKS, THE BALANCE OF THE MARCH 8 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS WAS DEVOTED TO COUNTING RULES AND DATA AFTER EACH SIDE HAD MADE A GENERAL, OPENING STATEMENT. THE EAST BEGAN WITH A BROAD CRITICISM OF THE WESTERN MIXED--PACKAGE APPROACH AND A DEFENSE OF THE EASTERN POSITION THAT EACH SIDE SHOULD REDUCE THE SAME TYPES OF ARMAMENTS. THE WESTERN OPENING STATEMENT EMPHASIZED THAT, UNLIKE THE EAST, THE WEST, WITH ITS DECEMBER 1975 PROPOSALS HAD ADDED SUBSTANTIALLY TO ITS ORIGINAL POSITION AND THAT THE WEST CONTINUED TO EXPECT A SERIOUS EASTERN REPLY TO THOSE PROPOSALS.

3. EASTERN REPS PROCEEDED TO POSE A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ABOUT WESTERN COUNTING RULES, INCLUDING SOME HAVING TO DO WITH EXCLUSIONS WHICH, WITHOUT MENTIONING FRANCE BY NAME, APPEARED TO BE ASKING HOW ESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS PROPOSED TO TAKE ACCOUNT IN THEIR REDUCTIONS OF THE PRESENCE OF SUBSTANTIAL FRENCH FORCES IN THE AREA. THEY PROVIDED AN UNINFORMATIVE ANSWER TO THE MARCH 1 WESTERN QUESTION ABOUT THE EXCLUSION OF POLISH TERRITORIAL FORCES FROM THE EASTERN COUNT OF WARSAW PACT MILITARY MANPOWER. WHEN WESTERN REPS REPEATED THE QUESTION, EASTERN REPS SAID THEY WOULD RETURN TO IT AT A LATER DATE. EASTERN REPS MADE A FURTHER ATTEMPT TO REBUT WESTERN CHARGES OF INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN EARLIER EASTERN POSITIONS AND PRESENT EASTERN CLAIMS ON
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THE SIZE OF WARSAW PACT FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE. WESTERN REPS GAVE ADDITIONAL EXAMPLES OF EASTERN INCONSISTENCY IN THIS REGARD.

4. AS THEY HAD AT THE LAST INFORMAL SESSION, EASTERN REPS ONCE MORE EXHIBITED IMPATIENCE WITH THE CONTENT AND NUMBER OF WESTERN QUERIES AIMED AT PROBING THE ASSERTION MADE BY THE EAST THAT ITS FIGURES FOR WARSAW PACT MANPOWER STRENGTH WERE COMPLETED BY WESTERN COUNTING STANDARDS. EASTERN REPS REPEATED THEIR SUGGESTION OF THE WEEK BEFORE THAT EACH SIDE TABLE DATA COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY FOR THE FORCES IN THE AREA OF EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT AS A MORE EXPEDITIOUS MEANS OF ARRIVING AT THE REASONS FOR DATA DISCREPANCIES. IN A MARCH 10 BILATERAL CONVERSATION WITH US REPS, SOVIET REPS CONFIRMED EASTERN WILLINGNESS TO BEGIN THE EXAMINATION OF SUCH NATIONAL TOTALS WITH FIGURES FOR US AND SOVIET FORCES, BUT WERE ADAMANT THAT THE PROCESS COULD START ONLY AFTER THE SIMULTANEOUS TABLING OF NATIONAL TOTALS FOR ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS

ON EACH SIDE.

5. LUXEMBOURG REP WINTER MADE THE ONLY STATEMENT AT THE MARCH 10 PLENARY MEETING. HE HIGHLIGHTED THE INEQUITABLE AND IMPRACTICAL NATURE OF THE EAST'S REQUIREMENT THAT ARMAMENTS BE REDUCED ACROSS-THE-BOARD. WINTER CONTRASTED THIS EASTERN POSITION WITH THE WESTERN MIXED-PACKAGE APPROACH WHICH PROVIDED A REALISTIC WAY TO RECONCILE THE DIFFERENCES OF THE TWO SIDES AS REGARDS THE REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS. RESOR

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